

THE CHRONICLE.

ED. C. CAMPBELL, Editor.

Clarksville, Tenn., Feb. 5, 1881.

TERMS: \$5.00 IN ADVANCE.

TAXATION OF RAILROADS.

The present legislature of Tennessee certainly has abundant work before it to occupy the remaining time of the session, and now that our state officers have been elected, let our representatives—Republican and Democratic—settle down to the business before them.

The all-absorbing state-debt question will, we presume, consume most of their time, and attract most attention from the public, but it is by no means the only matter of great importance that they have to deal with.

Tennessee has to-day in operation, through her different roads, some eighteen hundred miles of railway, built and equipped at a cost of not less than fifty millions of dollars, and worth now, at market value, a sum not far short of that. These roads, under their original charters, were all exempt from taxation for a longer or shorter period. The time has happily, both for the roads and for the people, arrived when the last of these shorter exemptions is about to expire, and we must all, individuals and corporations alike, take our place among the taxpayers of the state and help to bear our proper share of the burdens of government. To determine the proper mode, however, of assessing a railroad for taxation is not one of the easiest things imaginable. We have at present a statute on the subject which, so far as its practical working is concerned, is confessedly a failure, and no fair-minded person would be content to see the legislature adjourn without either radically amending it or repealing it altogether and enacting a better law in its stead. Montgomery county, for instance, has about thirty-three miles of railway, the actual cost of which, according to reports of officers at the time of its construction, was more than one million of dollars, not including rolling stock, and yet it was assessed for the year of 1879, and is still assessed, at less than one-fourth of that sum.

This did not materially affect us, however, as both the state and county were enjoined by the federal courts from collecting anything upon the ground that the exemption had not expired; but now that the exemption has expired, our people are certainly entitled to a fair valuation and prompt payment. The last legislature of Kentucky appointed some of the most prominent and reliable business men in the state, commissioners to assess railroad property for taxation, and their work has given general satisfaction. Everything has been done openly and above board. Full power was given to examine minutely into the affairs of each road, and the result of this investigation was promptly given to the public in every instance, and as a consequence, a fair valuation has been arrived at all over the state.

To show the difference between the practical working of this law and ours on this subject, it need only be stated that that part of the Memphis branch road lying north of Guthrie, in Kentucky, is appraised at about three times as much per mile as that part lying south of Guthrie, in Tennessee, though the latter portion, having a tunnel and several long bridges, was by far the most expensive in its construction.

In Pennsylvania they have no tax on private property, real estate or personal, for state purposes. The entire revenue, amounting to some six millions of dollars, is derived from railroads, canals and other corporations.

In Illinois a simple provision incorporated in the "Illinois Central" some forty years ago, by which the road should pay a certain per cent. of its net earnings into the state treasury annually, has resulted in so much benefit to the public that the entire state debt has been wiped out by it, and a large proportion of the annual expenses are now being defrayed from the same source.

In Tennessee and in Montgomery county the property owned by railroads amounts to nearly, if not quite one-fourth as much as all the other taxable property of every description, and it certainly is not unreasonable to ask that our public schools, the support of our poor, the paying of the interest on our bonded debt and every other public necessity should be sustained in something like an equal and fair proportion by income derived from a just taxation of these very useful corporations.

We are decidedly opposed to any unjust discrimination for or against any species of property, or any persons or combinations of persons, in the state or out of it. We have no patience with this lately popular and unjust cry against railroads, and do not propose to encourage or countenance such a movement, for we regard them as the most useful and beneficial enterprise of the age, but we do desire that they be justly and equitably taxed.

We do hope that the present legislature will take this matter in hand and levy a just tax upon the railroads, for the sooner this end is attained the better it will be for all parties concerned.

THE ALL-IMPORTANT QUESTION.

Our State Debt.

The most important subject, and one before which all others pale into utter insignificance, which comes before our present legislature is the settlement of our state debt. The eyes of every Tennesseean, and we might say of the entire country at large, are daily scanning the proceedings of that body and anxiously and nervously watching to see what action they are going to take in regard to this momentous question. It is a subject fraught with vital interest to every Tennesseean, to every man who takes thought of the honor, the credit and the prosperity of his native state, be he Democrat, or Republican.

This is the great question that agitated the political mind of our state during the last hard-fought

RECORD ACQUITTED.

Col. Tom Buford, who brutally murdered Judge Elliott, of the supreme court of Kentucky, at Frankfort, about two years ago—a crime the remembrance of which is doubtless fresh in the minds of all our readers—was acquitted of the charge at Owensboro, Ky., on last Saturday, on the ground of insanity.

His acquittal upon this trumped-up plea of insanity will excite in the minds of everyone who is familiar with the details of this heinous crime feelings of amazement and horror. The administration of the law in our sister state is getting to be a farce and an outrage upon justice. Not many months ago Arnold was acquitted of the outrageous murder of Little at Richmond, Ky., and although almost the entire press of Kentucky was up in arms against that lamentable travesty upon law and justice, still we have another more noted and conspicuous triumph of crime over law and morality, following close upon its heels, in the acquittal of Buford.

We are sorry for our sister state; surely she is very jealous of her doubtful distinction of "the dark and bloody ground."

We are glad to see that the press all over the state is handling this case without gloves.

Buford has been assigned to the lunatic asylum at Anchorage, where we suppose he will recuperate his tired energy and be turned at large once more. Oh, times! Oh, laws!

"It turns out," writes Gath, that Philadelphia secretly got up a subscription to Grant before New York heard about the matter, and slipped over to New York and got the best New York names on their list among them the Seligman, Van Derbits, Morgans, Dows, etc. Jay Gould gave \$25,000, and Vanderbilt \$25,000. Meantime, George Jones says that the New York subscription has amounted to \$225,000, and that every day's mail brings him more checks. Robert Bonner says the fund to which he has subscribed for Grant amounts to \$130,000. John Mackay has given \$25,000 to the New York fund, and E. D. Lang is said to have given to both funds, and to the N. Y. fund \$25,000. If Grant gets the money the donors ought to be flattered to have been the principal in speculation. He is now understood to be a member of a firm which advances money on mining and other stocks, and put into it \$50,000 cash, much of which he derived from the sale of his Long Branch residence.

The attitude of Grant on this subject has, therefore, been of no political advantage to them, and of no injury to him. It looks probable that he will have his \$300,000 at least, which, in addition to what he already possesses, ought to give him a clear income of \$20,000 a year, even at 4 per cent, which is pretty good for the "broken-down" Bellairs, as he has been called. Grant is expected to go to Mexico, where, they say, it is not sure he will accompany them.

Yet it has been said in the face of all this, that Senator Lamar and a few other tender-hearted and conciliatory democrats want congress to make an appropriation of the people's money, of about ten thousand dollars a year to help support this royal pauper. Mr. Lamar, or any other individual has a perfect right to contribute his whole salary, or as much of his private fortune as he sees fit, but he has no right to appropriate the public money to such a purpose. It is mortifying to see the south that Grant's stock has been, no matter by whom elected, the president of the United States for eight years, and as such was considered the head and representative of our honored country, should now in his retirement, be considered an object of public charity and a poor pensioner upon the bounty of the public. It is humiliating, and hereafter we are prepared to expect anything of him.

A Poor Prophet.

Judge A. A. Freeman of East Tennessee, and attorney general of the postoffice department, in an interview with a representative of the Cincinnati Commercial in Cincinnati last Monday, said, "our party is growing in Tennessee every day. We are daily making acquisitions from the ranks of active and prominent men of the state. If we have such an administration from Gov. Hawkins and President Garfield as we have a right to expect, Tennessee will cast her electoral vote next time for the republican candidate." We cannot see where the Judge looks for such results as he predicts above. We are inclined to think that the Judge is not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet. Does he remember that the combined votes of the state-credit and low-tax democrats in the late gubernatorial race amounted to over 140,000, giving the democrats a majority over the republicans of over 40,000. Let the legislature settle these local differences in our state and we'll show the Judge what kind of vote will be polled four years from now. Tennessee will return to her true position as one of the banner states of the democracy.

Went the Administration Help Brute?

President Hayes, in his letter of acceptance when nominated for the presidency four years ago, spoke touchingly of his deep interest for the welfare of the negro down-trodden negro of the south, but when he took his seat he seems to have forgotten this poor unfortunate race. We do not know that Garfield made any promises of aid, or professions of sympathy for the colored people like his fraudulent predecessor, but did, and now he has a chance to reward his colored friends for their support. Let him appoint ex-Senator Bruce as a member of his cabinet. Bruce himself has said that he is capable and fit for the place, and has been largely endorsed by his Mississippi and Georgia colored friends. Take him in, Mr. Garfield.

The celebrated Davy Crockett has two children still living: Lieut. B. P. Crockett, now in his 64th year, resides at Granbury, Texas, and a daughter, Mrs. Matilda Fields, who is 60 years old, lives in Gibson county, Tenn.—Tobacco Leaf.

Why, you forgetful fellow, you forgot to mention his great grand son, C. W. Crockett, of the Dover Courier. He's the last, but not the least of the Crocketts.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

Nothing of great importance was done in our legislature this week, save the election of secretary of state, comptroller and treasurer. Republicans were elected for the first two of these offices, and the present incumbent, Col. Marsh T. Polk, for treasurer.

On Monday the governor sent in his first veto, vetoing the house joint resolution authorizing the comptroller to issue his warrant for \$1,482, to Messrs. Glass and others for services as telegraph commissioners for the state, on the ground of unconstitutionality.

The election of secretary, comptroller and treasurer, occurred on Tuesday, and there were some lively debates during the day.

The legislature adjourned Thursday afternoon, until February the 15th.

PERSONAL OF NEW OFFICERS.

David A. Nunn, of Haywood county, who was elected secretary of state, is a former member of congress and a republican in faith.

James N. Nolan, who was elected comptroller, is a resident of Humphreys county and lives in Waverly, the county seat of that county. He is considered a republican, but from various persons our reporters learn that he is quite liberal in his political sentiments and also that he voted for Hon. John F. House, at the last election for congressman. His election was a surprise to the democrats in the legislature, but it was pretty well understood that he was the coming man.

It is almost unnecessary to say anything about the re-election of Col. Marsh T. Polk, as treasurer, because everybody knows him and knows him to be a good and sound democrat. Republicans voted for him because they believed him to be a fit person for the place which he has so ably filled in the past.

AMUSEMENTS.

Tell me not in mournful numbers, That this life is but a dream, That the heart's desire is vain, And that the soul is but a gleam.

Life is real, life is earnest, 'Tis our duty to be true, And to follow the path of duty, Ere we reach the goal of life.

NASHVILLE will extend a hearty welcome to John McCullough, the king of American tragedians, next week.—Banner.

THE WEEKEND.

The Werners' entertainment at Elder's Opera-house, last Saturday afternoon and night, was a novel performance, and was enjoyed by those who attended. There was a good audience of ladies and children at the matinee, and "Judging from the hand-clappings of the little ones, and the delight depicted upon their faces, after all, are the best critics, the performance was a success and the acting good. Edward Werner, in his comic songs and specialties, was immense. His "woman's suffrage" speech would put Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton to the blush, and the "entangled orator" rivaled the most desultory parades of the average young barrister. Miss Maud Stanley is a fine vocalist, her voice clear and well modulated, and her playing on the cornet was superb. The flute harmonic band was new here, and greatly enjoyed. The company excelled as bell-ringers, and, take them all in all, they are worthy to be seen.

MISS THOMPSON.

Miss Charlotte Thompson holds forth to-night at the Opera-house in Mr. J. K. Tillison's new American comedy, "The Planter's Wife." The press, speaking of this play, says it is pure and wholesome, and has in it strong situations and opportunities for dramatic effect. Miss Thompson's high reputation as an artist of the highest grade is well and firmly established, and she plays to the most critical and cultivated audiences throughout the country. Her acting is true and gives her a first-class house. Her prices of admission are as usual, and reserved seats can be had at Owen & Moore's. Read what the press says of her:

Miss Charlotte Thompson appeared at the Opera-house last evening in a new play, "The Planter's Wife." Miss Thompson is a young woman of great beauty and talent, and her performance was a most successful one. She played the part of a young woman who is the daughter of a planter, and her acting was of the highest order. The play was a most interesting one, and the audience was much pleased with the performance.

BILLY ARLINGTON'S MINSTRELS.

This celebrated company of Ethiopian character delineators will give one performance at Elder's Opera-house, on next Wednesday night, February 9th. This is one of the very best minstrel shows now on the boards. Billy Arlington is the pioneer of negro minstrelsy in America, and a long life in that profession has enabled him to gather together some of the very best talent to be had. He presents a grand olio, 29 stars, 6 end men, 3 comedians, etc., etc. His masquerade and grand minstrel-parade is the latest bonanza, and is worth a trip of forty miles to see. The press generally says:

Miss Selina Fetter, the Louisville debutante, is said, cleared \$2,000 as her share of the net proceeds of her three nights' performances in that city. There was a large audience, and she was very popular. Her person attractive, her voice clear and strong, yet not masculine, and her acting natural and correct. There is no ranting or reaching for effect, and her triumphs are the voluntary tributes yielded by her audience, rather than forced concessions exacted by her persistent efforts.—Henderson News.

This state of Illinois starts in the low price of free land. There is still money in the treasury, and the state has a revenue sufficient to meet all its ordinary expenses without taxing the people.

Election of City Officers.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen met on last Tuesday night for the annual election of city officers. Mayor Crumman in the chair, and all the members present, Messrs. Mosley, Faxon, Moore, Kendrick, Kessee, Merritt, Rick and Dugan.

As usual, the election of city officers created considerable excitement among the friends and acquaintances of the different candidates, and there was quite a large crowd of citizens present. The serious, eager look of those who were seeking place told more effectively than words the object of their attendance. A good deal of joking and bantering was indulged in by the crowd before the Mayor arrived, and every eye was willing to ante up the shekels that the "lightning would strike" his man.

Recorder R. D. Read read minutes of last meeting and they stood adopted.

Mr. H. C. Merritt, the gentleman from the 6th ward, moved that inasmuch as it was the night for annual election of officers that regular business be dispensed with. Carried.

It was moved that the Recorder's salary be fixed same as last year, carried; and Alderman R. D. Mosley nominated the present incumbent, Mr. R. D. Read. No other nominations. Recorder Read was unanimously re-elected (a fit reward for an efficient officer).

Alderman Faxon nominated Mr. R. N. Rhodes, present incumbent for re-election as City Attorney; said Mr. Rhodes was absent at the capital of the state making laws for his people, but that his services as city attorney in the past were present to the minds of all present, and would speak for him. (Cheers.) No other nomination.

Mr. Rhodes was unanimously re-elected, and his election was wired to him at Nashville, together with the congratulations of the board.

The election of city marshal was next in order, and the present incumbent, Mr. R. H. Walshaw, was nominated, without any opposition, and unanimously re-elected. (Cheers.) No other nomination.

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THE GREAT SALE.

New York Tobacco Last Jan. 29.

On Wednesday one of the largest sales of leaf tobacco ever effected in this country, was made by Messrs. Sawyer, Wallace & Co., of 17 Broadway, for Regie account. After a great deal of canvassing, examination and investigation Messrs. M. A. Benheim & Co., the buyers for Spain, purchased from Messrs. Wallace & Co., 10,108 boxes of Western leaf tobacco at a considerable concession from prices previously asked. The range of the figures paid cannot be accurately arrived at until the tobacco has all been examined, an operation that in so large a lot cannot be performed in much less than a month. In round numbers, Messrs. Benheim & Co. bought over 9,000 hogsheads, and the Messrs. Wallace & Co. sold over nine hundred hogsheads. As before stated, nothing like this transaction has ever before been known in the history of trade, involving as it does not less than a million of dollars. Both sellers and buyers might reasonably feel that over the record, but so far as we could perceive on interviewing them, they seemed to regard it as a matter of no special interest. The trade at large, however, take a different view, according to all concerned high praise for the magnitude of the transaction.

It must be remembered while applauding the principals in the sale that, after all, the culmination is only what has been long waited for. Divide up the 10,000 hogsheads now sold in one lot, among the four du 1 months, giving to each 2,500 hogsheads, and it will be seen that we have only had our legitimate share of trade. Western buyers, therefore, need not jump to the conclusion that because our stock has been suddenly diminished by over 10,000 hogsheads, that they can safely run up the prices of the new crop. This is a mistake, and one which the Regie buyers at their ease; their present requirements are met, and speculative movement will only send them out of the market, now that they are in it. Last week we wrote these words in our market report: "The market is in a semi-stagnation, should soon be reached. Who will move in that direction? Shall it be buyers of sellers first? Both seem to be willing to wait, and it will be, then, for both to move together? Let us see what the coming week will do."

The splendid account above given shows what has been done, and justifies not only what we then said, but also the fact that the Regie buyers in these columns for the past four months.

As an iron church was shipped from N. Y. by water, to Cuba, South America. It is composed entirely of iron, being 135 feet long by 65 feet wide, and 25 feet high. It is the main building, a vestry, door, tower, steeple, belfry, and altar. It is also accompanied by a fine organ, and the entire cost of the contract amounted to \$150,000. This is perhaps the first instance of the shipment of an iron church from this country.

The election of police officers was the next thing, and a considerable number of names were nominated. The following were candidates: Messrs. W. A. Curkuff, W. M. Morrison, Frank Phillips, Thos. Howell, W. G. Holleman, Thos. McCre, Pat Gineley, W. A. Jarrell.

On first ballot, Messrs. Curkuff, Morrison and Holleman were elected. At the next election, the same place between Messrs. Phillips and Howell, resulting on 6th ballot in Mr. Howell's election. While we recognize in Mr. Howell a clever gentleman, and one who we know will do his duty well and faithfully, we cannot but help regretting Mr. Phillips' defeat, for we believe he has been a good and very efficient officer.

M. W. Curkuff was re-elected chief of police, and will be confirmed by the board as chief of fire department. Mr. Jack McNeal was elected engineer of fire engine, vice Mr. Geo. Carlisle resigned.

Some other routine business was attended to by the board before adjournment. Your reporter buttoned up his overcoat and skipped out into the cold night air and no one said "good night" or "good-bye," or anything.

Meeting of Physicians.

A meeting of physicians of Clarksville was held at Dr. Wright's office on Thursday evening, Jan. 27, 1881, for the purpose of agreeing upon a uniform rate of charges for medical and surgical services; it was continued by adjournment on Monday night the 31st, and resulted in the adoption of a schedule of charges which will be printed and displayed in the offices of all the physicians who attended. The physicians attending were: Dr. Bailey, Beaumont, Carney, Johnson, Masie, McCally and Wright. It is anticipated that other physicians will be able to attend and will join in the adoption of the schedule.

REMOVAL!

Corner First and Franklin Streets.

Clarksville, Tenn.

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